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Maryland Monthly Labor Review

May, 1994

Maryland
Department of Economic & Employment Development

Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Employment in Maryland rose for the fourth consecutive month in May, reaching a record high for the month. The benefit of this expansion was, however, diminished by an even greater increase in the number of jobseekers entering the labor market, causing the unemployment rate to inch up slightly from 5.2 percent in April to 5.3 percent in May. Nationally, the unemployment rate, while declining, remained well above the statewide rate at 5.9 percent in May.

As schools began their semester breaks in May, students joined by other seasonal jobseekers, entered the labor market to begin their search for temporary summer employment. Nearly 17,700 jobseeekers entered the labor market in May, 13,324 of whom found employment, raising employment above the 2.5 million mark. May's employment increase was one of the best gains for the month dating back to 1978, exceeded only by that experienced in 1986. Even with this increase, the number of employed also grew, by 4,370 persons, to 140,224.

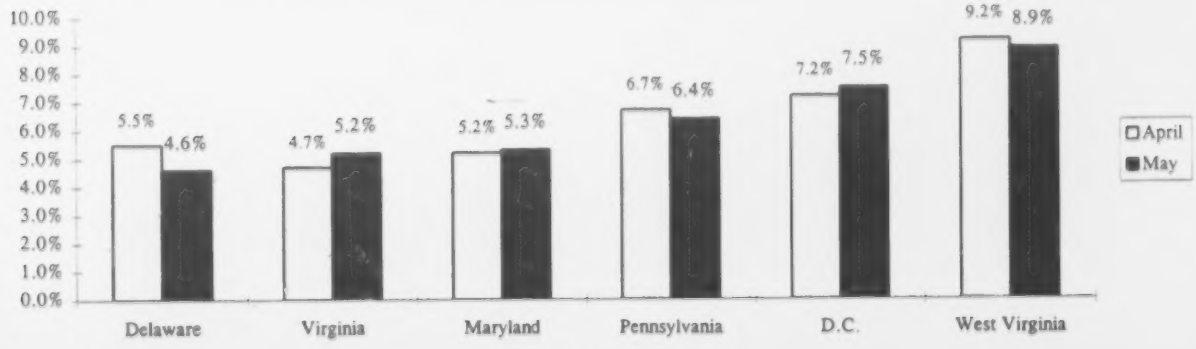
Unemployment increases are not uncommon at this time of year. While hiring activity begins to pick up, the increase in the number of temporary jobseekers more often than not exceeds job availability. It does, however, appear that hire rates are rising as evidenced by the decline in unemployment claims and the expansion of industrial payrolls.

Following seasonal adjustment, a slight increase in the number of unemployed was noted, however, the unemployment rate held steady at 5.4 percent.

	Unadjusted		Seasonally Adjusted	
	May 1994	April 1994	May 1994	April 1994
Civilian Labor Force	2,649,736	2,632,042	2,660,488	2,645,023
Total Employment	2,509,512	2,496,188	2,516,256	2,502,701
Total Unemployment	140,224	135,854	144,232	142,322
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.4
National Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.4

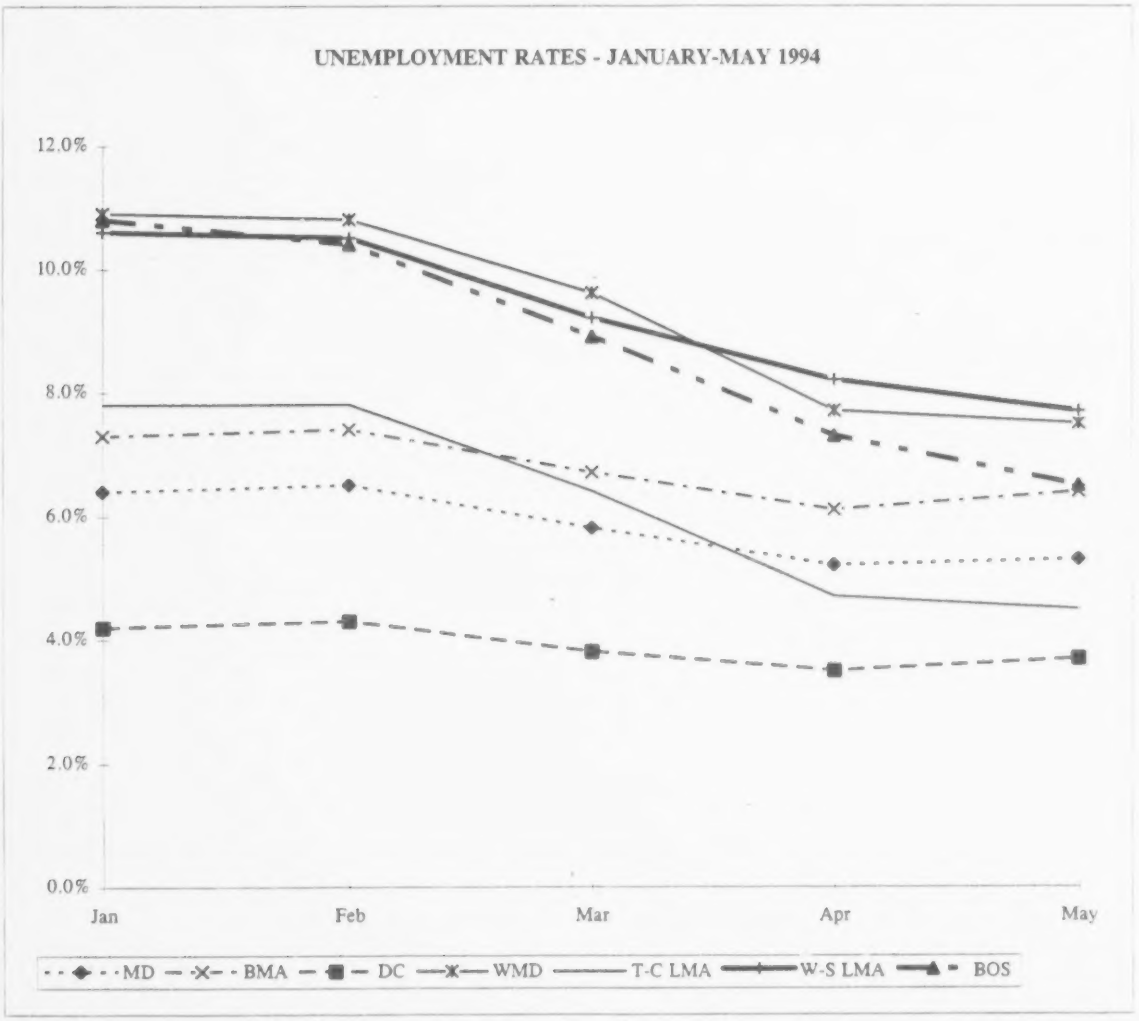
Jobless movements throughout the region were mixed. Joining Maryland on the list of states with rising unemployment rates were Virginia and the District of Columbia. Virginia's rate showed the largest upward movement, rising from 4.7 percent to 5.2 percent. The largest downturn occurred in Delaware, leaving Delaware with a regional low of 4.6 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEIGHBORING STATES--MAY 1994



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

Area	MAY 1994		APRIL 1994	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maryland	140,224	5.3%	135,854	5.2%
Baltimore Metropolitan Area	76,125	6.4%	72,822	6.1%
Maryland's DC Suburbs	41,183	3.7%	38,783	3.5%
Western Maryland	8,514	7.5%	8,725	7.7%
Talbot-Caroline LMA	1,543	4.5%	1,543	4.7%
Wicomico-Somerset LMA	4,492	7.7%	4,711	8.2%
Balance of State	8,369	6.5%	9,269	7.3%



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Within the Baltimore Metro Area, labor force expansion outpaced employment gains, causing joblessness to rise by 0.3 percentage points to 6.4 percent in May. Rising joblessness was the norm throughout the region with the exception of Carroll and Queen Anne's counties. In Carroll, labor force growth was limited, making the competition for available jobs less prohibitive for local jobseeekers. In Queen Anne's, an employment gain, coupled with a shrinkage in the labor force, lowered the jobless rate by almost a full percentage point to 4.8 percent. Howard County's rate, while rising to 3.9 percent, remained the regional low while Baltimore City's rate, at 9.8 percent, was at the uppermost end of the range. Throughout the region, hiring in construction, restaurants, business services and amusements, coupled with recall activity in trucking, uplifted local labor market conditions.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

The addition of 2,400 persons to the unemployment rolls caused the jobless rate in the region to move up from 3.5 percent in April to 3.7 percent in May. Even with this increase, the suburban region's unemployment rate, which has remained in the 3.0 percent range for three months running, is the lowest of the state's six labor market areas. Locally, jobless rates were higher in May in all but Calvert County. Prince George's jobless rate showed the largest movement, rising by 0.3 percentage points to 4.6 percent in May. A number of industries in the region reported seasonal hiring during May, with growth in construction and trade pacing the expansion.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Employment in the region advanced by slightly more than 1,000 persons over the month, reducing the number of unemployed workers and lowering the regional jobless rate to 7.5 percent in May. Employment rose throughout the region, helping to diminish joblessness in all but Allegany County. Garrett's rate, while remaining the regional high, fell from double-digits for the first time this year as nearly 350 countians found employment over the month. Within the region, jobseekers took advantage of the rising number of opportunities in construction and in retail trade, particularly in restaurants and general merchandise stores.

TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA

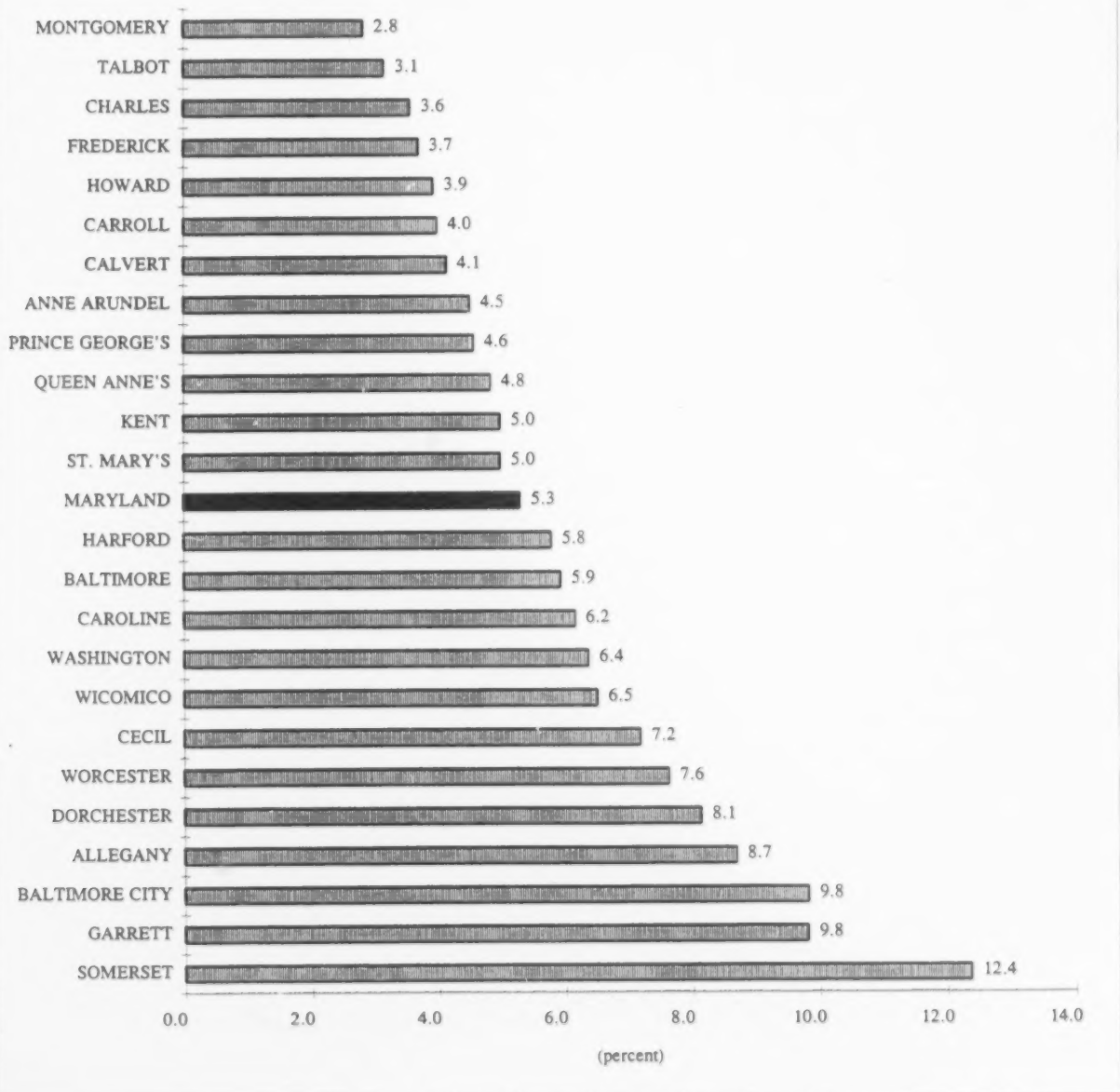
The number of employed in the area rose during May, helping to ease joblessness down slightly from 4.7 percent to 4.5 percent. Labor market conditions in the area have improved substantially since the beginning of the year. In January, just over 2,500 persons, or 7.8 percent of the labor force, were unemployed. The number of unemployed are now about 1,000 fewer and, more importantly, the number of employed has risen by more than 2,550 persons to 32,371.

WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA

Seasonal hiring and recall activity helped to bolster labor market conditions in the area, cutting the jobless rate by 0.5 percentage points to 7.7 percent. The most noteworthy movement occurred in Somerset where unemployment continued its seasonal descent, falling by more than a full percentage point. Hiring in food processing increased employment prospects and contributed to this decline.

durable goods, workweeks were extended by 0.4 of an hour to 43.3 hours in May, an increase which helped to raise weekly paychecks by just over $6.00 to $596.67. Workweeks were longer and earnings were higher during May in all but a few durable goods industries. In nondurable goods, employers opted to add workers rather than increase work schedules. Overall, workweeks dropped from 40.6 hours to 40.4 hours, a decline which caused weekly earnings to slip somewhat to $499.75. At the detailed industry level, the most noticeable change occurred in food processing where workweeks were cut by 0.7 of an hour. This reduction, coupled with a hourly pay cut, caused weekly earnings to fall by about 2.5 percent.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--MAY 1994



Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
MAY 1994

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APR.1994*	MAY 1993***
MARYLAND	2,649,736	2,632,042	2,509,512	2,496,188	140,224	135,854	5.3	5.2	6.1
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,196,283	1,187,279	1,120,158	1,114,457	76,125	72,822	6.4	6.1	7.4
BALTIMORE CITY	315,837	312,727	284,817	283,367	31,020	29,360	9.8	9.4	10.8
ANNE ARUNDEL	222,719	221,317	212,711	211,628	10,008	9,689	4.5	4.4	5.9
BALTIMORE	363,930	361,119	342,350	340,608	21,580	20,511	5.9	5.7	7.0
CARROLL	66,606	66,462	63,959	63,634	2,647	2,828	4.0	4.3	5.5
HARFORD	97,718	97,097	92,073	91,605	5,645	5,492	5.8	5.7	6.4
HOWARD	111,999	111,013	107,617	107,069	4,382	3,944	3.9	3.6	4.1
QUEEN ANNE'S	17,473	17,543	16,630	16,546	843	997	4.8	5.7	5.7
D. C. AREA	1,118,077	1,114,688	1,076,894	1,075,905	41,183	38,783	3.7	3.5	4.2
CALVERT	32,205	32,202	30,875	30,847	1,330	1,355	4.1	4.2	4.3
CHARLES	59,162	59,029	57,061	57,008	2,101	2,021	3.6	3.4	4.4
FREDERICK	92,318	92,087	88,921	88,840	3,397	3,247	3.7	3.5	4.2
MONTGOMERY	473,968	472,580	460,584	460,161	13,384	12,419	2.8	2.6	3.2
PRINCE GEORGE'S	460,424	458,789	439,453	439,049	20,971	19,740	4.6	4.3	5.1
WESTERN MARYLAND	113,644	112,850	105,130	104,125	8,514	8,725	7.5	7.7	9.2
ALLEGANY	34,374	34,166	31,387	31,240	2,987	2,926	8.7	8.6	10.6
GARRETT	13,840	13,557	12,482	12,140	1,358	1,417	9.8	10.5	12.1
WASHINGTON	65,430	65,127	61,261	60,745	4,169	4,382	6.4	6.7	7.9
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	33,914	32,784	32,371	31,241	1,543	1,543	4.5	4.7	5.8
CAROLINE	15,811	15,283	14,837	14,319	974	964	6.2	6.3	8.2
TALBOT	18,103	17,501	17,534	16,922	569	579	3.1	3.3	3.6
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	58,467	57,242	53,975	52,531	4,492	4,711	7.7	8.2	7.9
SOMERSET	11,700	11,610	10,254	9,980	1,446	1,630	12.4	14.0	12.7
WICOMICO	46,767	45,632	43,721	42,551	3,046	3,081	6.5	6.8	6.7
BALANCE OF STATE	129,352	127,197	120,983	117,928	8,369	9,269	6.5	7.3	7.2
CECIL	38,022	37,800	35,292	35,050	2,730	2,750	7.2	7.3	7.5
DORCHESTER	16,878	16,805	15,505	15,005	1,373	1,800	8.1	10.7	9.0
KENT	10,483	10,439	9,961	9,641	522	798	5.0	7.6	6.1
ST. MARY'S	42,838	41,291	40,706	39,398	2,132	1,893	5.0	4.6	5.7
WORCESTER	21,131	20,862	19,519	18,834	1,612	2,028	7.6	9.7	8.9
UNITED STATES**	130,602,000	129,682,000	122,946,000	121,604,000	7,656,000	8,078,000	5.9	6.2	6.7

*Estimates for the state are revised.
**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
***Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier years. Further information is available upon request.
NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

Maryland's job picture continued to improve during May, with seasonal hiring uplifting employment in almost every major industry sector. In all, about 21,500 jobs were added by Maryland employers during May, marking the third consecutive month of rising employment. May's increase pushed the job total up to 2,130,800, just over 16,000 above last year's level. Hiring activity occurred predominantly within the service economy where combined industry gains accounted for over 80.0 percent of the monthly job creation.

Among the service-providers, the retail trade industry was the top job producer, both statewide and in every region except the Western Maryland Area. More than 9,000 jobs were created in the retail sector during May, with a number of industries contributing to this overall gain. Eating and drinking establishments were the focal point of hiring, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the retail upturn. Building material and garden supply stores, while a distant second in terms of job generation, made a respectable showing with a contribution of 1,000 jobs. Food stores followed suit, with May's gain of 800 jobs more than compensating for previous month's losses. Lesser gains in general merchandise, apparel, furniture stores and auto dealers rounded out the industry upturn.

The services sector also supported the seasonal upturn, with gains in all but a few of the individual services industries helping to accumulate an additional 6,100 jobs. Amusements, a key player in the employment surge, contributed about four out of every ten jobs in the services group. Business services continued to be a source of strength in the industry, adding jobs for the third consecutive month. Employment gains, of note, were also reported in agricultural services and hotels. Expansion in these and other industries helped to offset reductions in educational, personal and legal services.

Government employment rose by 1,500 jobs in May, with hiring and recall activity in local government representing about 60.0 percent of the overall increase. Recalls in public school systems and boards of education, coupled with hiring in outside maintenance, parks and recreational facilities, pushed local government payrolls up by about 900 jobs. State government payrolls were also supplemented by recalls at colleges and universities while, in federal government, hiring in non-defense related programs added about 100 jobs to the monthly employment estimate.

Transportation, communications and public utilities, the remaining service-producer to report an upturn, expanded by about 600 jobs over the month. Performance in the transportation sector carried the industry. Workers returned to their jobs following a strike resolution, uplifting employment in trucking and warehousing by an estimated 500 jobs.

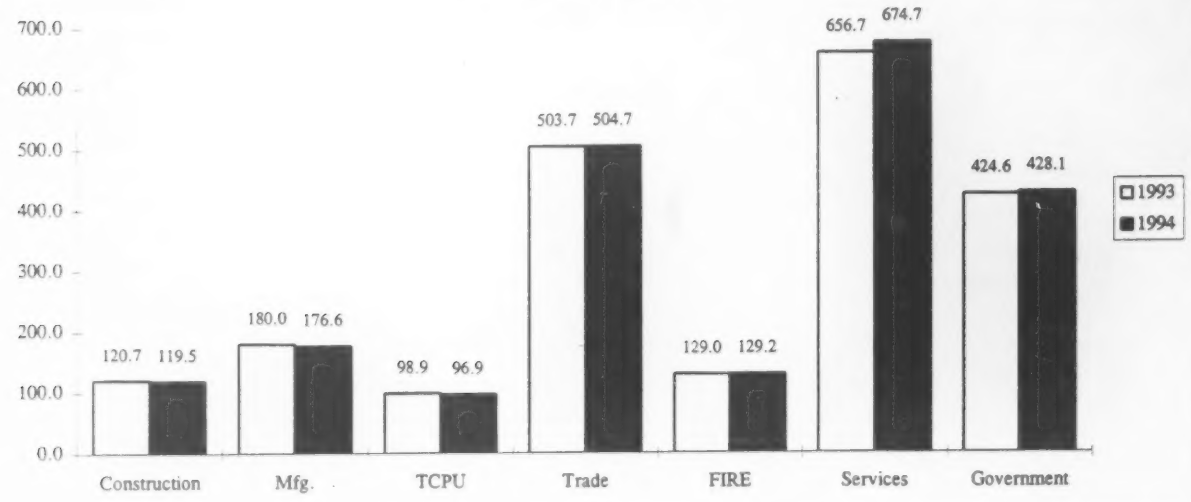
The finance, insurance and real estate sector, the only source of job loss in the service economy, declined by about 500 jobs over the month. Reductions were reported in both the finance and the insurance industries, with losses in finance occurring primarily in the D.C. Suburbs and those in insurance coming from reports in the Baltimore Metro Area. The impact of these declines were diminished somewhat by seasonal hiring in real estate which yielded about 200 jobs.

On the goods-producing side of the economy, the construction industry continued its seasonal rebound, contributing about 3,600 jobs to the labor market during May. Construction activity picked up across the state's four regions, with the Baltimore Metro Area showing the largest gains. All phases of construction reported higher levels of activity in May, with hiring by special trade contractors accounting for about 55.0 percent of the industry's monthly expansion.

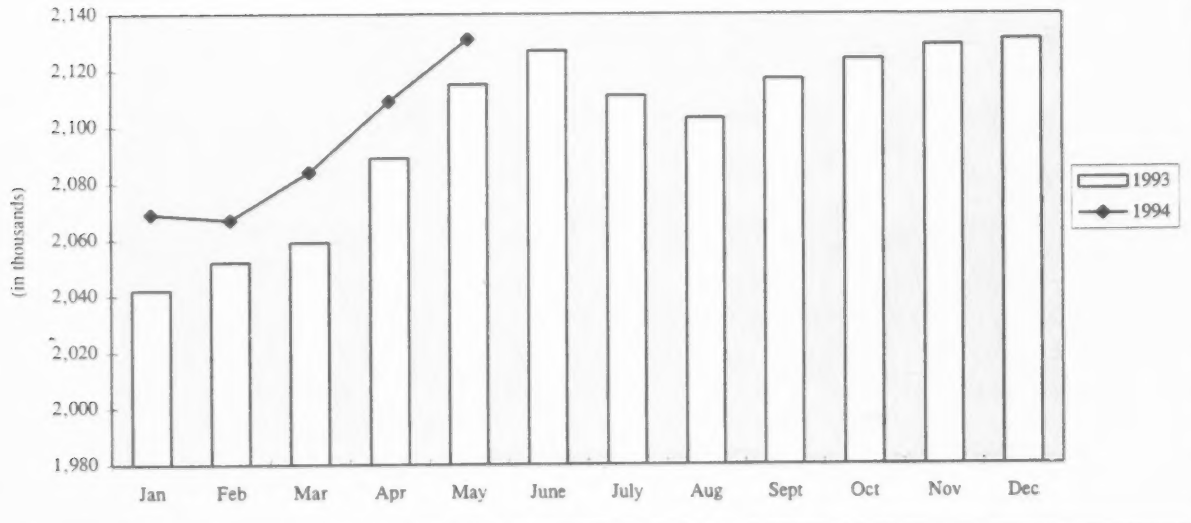
Lastly, employment in Maryland's manufacturing industry moved ahead by 600 jobs during May. Food processing, the only industry to show any noteworthy activity, expanded seasonally, adding about 400 jobs for the month. The entire increase in this industry was reflected on the Balance of State payrolls, an area where vegetable and seafood processing remain an important part of the economy. The status of production workers in manufacturing overall remained relatively unchanged. During May, workers put in a 41.7 hour workweek, earning $13.02 per hour. In

durable goods, workweeks were extended by 0.4 of an hour to 43.3 hours in May, an increase which helped to raise weekly paychecks by just over $6.00 to $596.67. Workweeks were longer and earnings were higher during May in all but a few durable goods industries. In nondurable goods, employers opted to add workers rather than increase work schedules. Overall, workweeks dropped from 40.6 hours to 40.4 hours, a decline which caused weekly earnings to slip somewhat to $499.75. At the detailed industry level, the most noticeable change occurred in food processing where workweeks were cut by 0.7 of an hour. This reduction, coupled with a hourly pay cut, caused weekly earnings to fall by about 2.5 percent.

MARYLAND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
MAY 1993 AND MAY 1994



TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT
JANUARY 1993 THROUGH MAY 1994



NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
MAY 1994

Industry	May 1994	April** 1994	May 1993	Percent Change May 1993-May 1994
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,130.8	2,109.3	2,114.7	0.8
Goods Producing	297.2	293.0	301.8	-1.5
Mining	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0
Construction	119.5	115.9	120.7	-1.0
Heavy Construction	14.4	13.6	14.7	-2.0
Manufacturing	176.6	176.0	180.0	-1.9
Durable Goods	86.3	86.3	87.9	-1.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3.8	3.7	3.9	-2.6
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.7	6.6	6.6	1.5
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	4.0	3.9	4.0	0.0
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.8
Primary Metal Industries	8.2	8.2	8.6	-4.7
Blast Furnaces	6.6	6.6	6.9	-4.3
Fabricated Metal Products	8.3	8.3	8.4	-1.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.1	3.1	3.2	-3.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc.342,343,345-349)	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0
Industrial Machinery	14.5	14.5	14.8	-2.0
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.1	8.1	8.5	-4.7
Electronic Equipment	13.0	13.0	13.2	-1.5
Communications Equipment	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.2
Electronic Component	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Electronic Equipment	4.9	4.9	5.1	-3.9
Transportation Equipment	10.4	10.5	10.7	-2.8
Motor Vehicles	4.5	4.6	4.6	-2.2
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	3.9	3.9	4.0	-2.5
Instruments & Related	16.3	16.3	16.6	-1.8
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.1	2.2	2.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	90.3	89.7	92.1	-2.0
Food & Kindred Products	21.2	20.8	21.9	-3.2
Meat Products	4.8	4.6	5.1	-5.9
Beverages	4.0	3.9	3.9	2.6
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	7.7	7.7	8.0	-3.8
Textile Mill, Apparel	8.7	8.7	8.9	-2.2
Paper & Allied Products	8.5	8.5	8.7	-2.3
Printing & Publishing	27.6	27.5	27.5	0.4
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.6	13.5	14.1	-3.5
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.4	8.4	8.7	-3.4

Industry	May 1994	April*** 1994	May 1993	Percent Change May 1993- May 1994
Service Producing	1,833.6	1,816.3	1,812.9	1.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	96.9	96.3	98.9	-2.0
Transportation	55.5	54.7	55.8	-0.5
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	27.7	27.2	28.0	-1.1
Communications & Utilities	41.4	41.6	43.1	-3.9
Communications	26.5	26.6	26.6	-0.4
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	14.9	15.0	16.5	-9.7
Trade	504.7	495.1	503.7	0.2
Wholesale Trade	101.1	100.8	100.7	0.4
Retail Trade	403.6	394.3	403.0	0.1
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	17.7	16.7	17.7	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	39.9	39.6	41.1	-2.9
Food Stores	65.0	64.2	63.3	2.7
Eating & Drinking Places	135.1	129.0	136.4	-1.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	129.2	129.7	129.0	0.2
Finance	59.5	59.8	58.3	2.1
Depository Institutions	39.0	39.0	38.8	0.5
Commercial Banks	25.1	25.2	25.5	-1.6
Insurance	35.7	36.1	36.7	-2.7
Insurance Carriers	23.9	24.2	24.4	-2.0
Real Estate	34.0	33.8	34.0	0.0
Services	674.7	668.6	656.7	2.7
Business Services	144.6	143.0	138.3	4.6
Health Services	180.3	179.6	175.1	3.0
Hospitals	81.3	81.2	81.2	0.1
Legal Services	15.5	15.7	15.5	0.0
Educational Services	39.7	40.7	38.4	3.4
Private Colleges, Universities	22.7	23.6	21.4	6.1
Total Government	428.1	426.6	424.6	0.8
Total Federal Government	131.7	131.6	134.9	-2.4
Total State & Local Government	296.4	295.0	289.7	2.3
Total State Government	98.9	98.4	97.3	1.6
State Education	36.5	35.7	36.1	1.1
Other State Government	62.4	62.7	61.2	2.0
Total Local Government	197.5	196.6	192.4	2.7
Local Education	120.9	120.6	118.2	2.3
Other Local Government	76.6	76.0	74.2	3.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.
NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.
Data are not seasonally adjusted.
**Estimates are revised.
Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--MAY 1994

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Eastern Shore-Southern Maryland	
	May 1994	Apr. 1994**	May 1994	Apr. 1994**	May 1994	Apr. 1994**	May 1994	Apr. 1994**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,099.5	1,089.8	780.3	774.5	95.0	94.0	148.9	144.2
Goods Producing	162.4	159.8	85.2	83.6	21.0	20.5	30.0	29.1
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
Construction	56.3	54.3	51.0	49.5	5.0	4.6	8.3	8.0
Manufacturing	105.9	105.3	34.0	33.9	15.3	15.2	21.5	20.9
Durable Goods	53.7	53.6	17.2	17.1	6.7	6.7	8.7	8.6
Nondurable Goods	52.2	51.7	16.8	16.8	8.6	8.5	12.8	12.3
Service Producing	937.1	930.0	695.1	690.9	74.0	73.5	118.9	115.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	51.9	51.3	31.5	31.4	5.3	5.2	8.4	8.3
Trade	250.9	246.6	187.9	184.7	24.7	24.4	37.9	36.2
Wholesale Trade	58.8	58.6	31.0	31.0	4.5	4.5	5.6	5.5
Retail Trade	192.1	188.0	156.9	153.7	20.2	19.9	32.3	30.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	72.3	72.3	47.2	47.5	3.3	3.3	5.0	4.9
Services	350.8	348.8	256.7	255.6	23.8	23.8	38.5	37.5
Total Government	211.2	211.0	171.8	171.7	16.9	16.8	29.1	28.2
Federal	48.1	48.0	74.2	74.2	1.7	1.8	7.0	6.8
State	69.2	68.8	19.1	19.4	5.3	5.2	6.4	6.1
Local	93.9	94.2	78.5	78.1	9.9	9.8	15.7	15.3

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.
**Estimates are revised.
Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.
Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
MAY 1994

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	May 1994	April 1994	May 1994	April 1994	May 1994	April 1994
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.7	41.6	$542.52	$540.80	$13.01	$13.00
Durable Goods	43.3	42.9	596.67	590.30	13.78	13.76
Lumber and Wood Products	40.3	39.6	367.54	360.76	9.12	9.11
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	46.2	44.1	561.33	533.17	12.15	12.09
Primary Metal Industries	45.2	45.1	805.92	802.78	17.83	17.80
Fabricated Metals	43.1	42.5	514.18	504.05	11.93	11.86
Industrial Machinery	44.1	44.9	616.96	625.46	13.99	13.93
Electronic Equipment	41.1	40.6	497.31	491.67	12.10	12.11
Transportation Equipment	44.6	44.1	747.94	738.23	16.77	16.74
Instruments and Related Products	40.0	39.7	552.00	545.48	13.80	13.74
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	38.8	38.4	388.78	382.85	10.02	9.97
Nondurable Goods	40.4	40.6	499.75	501.82	12.37	12.36
Food and Kindred Products	40.6	41.3	476.64	488.58	11.74	11.83
Textile Mill, Apparel	36.9	37.2	304.79	305.78	8.26	8.22
Paper and Allied Products	42.5	41.0	561.00	544.48	13.20	13.28
Printing and Publishing	38.0	38.8	562.40	568.42	14.80	14.65
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.0	42.3	556.08	560.48	13.24	13.25
Rubber and Plastic Products	44.2	43.5	468.96	455.01	10.61	10.46
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	42.1	41.9	$573.40	$569.42	$13.62	$13.59
Durable Goods	43.9	43.4	651.92	639.72	14.85	14.74
Nondurable Goods	40.6	40.6	507.09	508.72	12.49	12.53

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	May 1994	April 1994	May 1993
Initial Claims	14,865	15,357	14,894
Weeks Claimed	193,760	201,773	189,315
First Payments	7,385	7,708	6,784
Final Payments	3,717	5,188	1,252
Weeks Paid	158,014	165,320	156,024
Net Benefit Amount	$28,401,564	$29,612,726	$28,387,664
Average Check Amount	$179.74	$179.12	$181.94

Initial claims continued to decline, with May's drop marking the fourth consecutive month of fewer filings. The number of initial filings dropped by just over 3.0 percent in May to 14,865, a figure slightly below last year's total. While a number of local offices reported modest increases in filing activity, the only region visibly affected by local office movements was the Western region where overall claims filings rose by about 20.0 percent to 1,543 in May.

The number of weeks claimed for unemployment benefits were also lower in May, falling by 4.0 percent to 193,760. Weeks claimed, while dropping to a 1994 low, were about 2.3 percent greater than last year's filings of 189,315. The statewide increase in weeks claimed was confined solely to the Baltimore Metro Area. About 82.0 percent of all weeks claimed, or 158,014 weeks, were paid during May, down 4.4 percent from last month yet about 1.3 percent higher than May 1993's payment total.

First payments, also declining over the month, accounted for about 4.7 percent of all weeks compensated during May while final payments, at 3,717, represented about 2.4 percent of all payments issued. Benefit exhaustions were down in each of the state's four regions, with the largest decline, of nearly 40.0 percent, occurring in the Balance of State Area.

While benefit payments were slightly higher in May, rising from $179.12 to $179.74, the payment of about 7,300 fewer checks in May reduced disbursements from the UI Trust Fund by about $1.2 million over the month.

REGIONAL INDICATORS
MAY 1994

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	7,929	3,809	1,543	1,454
Weeks Claimed	102,559	42,882	12,652	20,732
First Payments	4,173	1,705	477	560
Final Payments	1,945	879	193	391
Weeks Paid	83,780	35,006	10,696	17,566
Net Benefit Amount	$15,186,439	$6,648,873	$1,733,116	$2,722,495
Average Check Amount	$181.27	$189.94	$162.03	$154.99

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